

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

In the Office Action mailed October 10, 2003, claims 1-40 were deemed to be subject to restriction or election. More specifically, restriction is required for Group I (Claims 1-24 and 31), Group II (Claims 25-30), Group III (Claims 32-34), Group IV (Claim 35), Group V (Claim 36), Group VI (Claim 37 and 38), Group VII (Claim 39), and Group VIII (Claim 40). Further, the Office Action stated that the application contains claims directed to patentably distinct subcombinations. In addition, the Office Action stated that Applicant is required to elect a disclosed invention for prosecution on the merits.

By this Amendment and Response, the Applicant hereby elects Group I (claims 1-24 and 31). The Applicant's election is without prejudice or admission with respect to the Applicant's right to re-file the withdrawn claims in a continuing application. No new matter has been introduced into the application. The claims as now presented are believed to be in allowable condition. The Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims.

The Applicant therefore respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims and a finding of their allowability. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. Please feel free to contact the undersigned should any questions arise with respect to this case that may be addressed by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

**BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.**

Dated: December 10, 2003

By:



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